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Attorneys for Plaintiff Innovative Control Systems, Inc.

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

INNOVATIVE CONTROL SYSTEMS, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

INTELIO TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No.1:08-CV-7226(LTS)(HBP)(ECF CASE)

Civil Action

**COMPLAINT** 

Plaintiff Innovative Control Systems, Inc. ("ICS"), by way of Complaint against defendant Intelio Technolgies, Inc. ("Intelio"), says:

# THE PARTIES

- At all relevant times, ICS is and has been organized under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania and has or has had its principal place of business in Wind Gap, Pennsylvania.
- 2. Upon information and belief, Intelio is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business in Irvine, California.

# NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 3. This is an action for false advertising under section 43(a) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a) and sections 349 and 350 of New York General Business Law, and similar laws of other states in which the false advertisement was disseminated.
- 4. This action stems from Intelio's placement of an advertisement making a false, deceptive and misleading comparison between its product and ICS's product in a publication published in New York and distributed throughout New York, including this judicial district, and the United States.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 5. For the reasons set forth herein, this Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338, and pursuant to this Court's supplemental jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1367. In addition, this Court would also have diversity jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332.
- 6. For the reasons set forth herein, venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and (c).

# **BACKGROUND**

- 7. Upon information and belief, Intelio is the manufacturer of a software system for the automated operation of car washes known as the ActiVA model.
- 8. ICS is the designer and manufacturer of various software systems for the automated operation of car washes, including the models known as the Auto Sentry and the Wash Valet.
- 9. ICS and Intelio are direct competitors in the market for software systems for the automated operation of car washes.

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- Upon information and belief, Professional Carwashing and Detailing is a 10. trade magazine published in New York and distributed throughout New York and the United States.
- In the August 2008 issue of Professional Carwashing and Detailing, 11. Intelio placed an advertisement, which makes a direct comparison between ICS's Auto Sentry model and Intelio's ActiVA model, and which is annexed hereto as Exhibit A.
- The advertisement states that Intelio's ActiVA has a "Suggested List 12. Price" of \$18,780, while ICS's Auto Sentry has a "Suggested List Price" of \$27,700, and that therefore purchasing the Intelio ActiVA will result in a "25% savings."
- This advertisement is misleading, false and deceptive because ICS's Auto 13. Sentry and Intelio's ActiVA are not comparable products; rather, ICS's Wash Valet is directly comparable to Intelio's ActiVA because they are both stand-alone, automatic pay-stations. By contrast, ICS's Auto Sentry is only used in conjunction with Tunnel Master™ and other control equipment as part as a fully integrated site management system.
- The list price for the comparable ICS Wash Valet is \$18,995, a difference 14. in price from the Intelio ActiVA of approximately 1%.
- Furthermore, the Intelio advertisement states that the ICS Auto Sentry 15. does not have "7x24 Monitoring/Alerts," which is false as to both the ICS Auto Sentry and Wash Valet.
- The Intelio advertisement also falsely states that "Multi-gate Stacking" is 16. an "Optional" feature of the ICS Auto Sentry; this feature is standard on the ICS Auto Sentry.

In addition, the Intelio advertisement intentionally omits the other superior 17. features of the ICS Auto Sentry that accrue from an integrated site management system that links tunnel control, software and other POS hardware to provide a complete facility solution.

Filed 08/14/2008

#### COUNT I

(False Advertising In Violation of Section 43(a) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a))

- Paragraphs 1 through 17 above are incorporated by reference as if fully set 18. forth herein.
- Intelio has violated section 43(a) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. §1125(a), 19. by using in commerce a false or misleading description of fact or representation of fact which, in commercial advertising or promotion, misrepresents the nature, characteristics and/or qualities of the goods of ICS, which has resulted in and is likely to continue to result in damage to ICS.
- Upon information and belief, Intelio intentionally and/or knowingly 20. caused the false advertisement to be published.
- Upon information and belief, actual and potential customers of ICS have 21. been and will be deceived or confused by the false advertisement, and as a result have been and will be misled into believing that Intelio's product is significantly less expensive and of better quality than ICS's products, which is incorrect.
- As a result of the actual and potential customer reliance on Intelio's false 22. advertisement, ICS has been injured.
- ICS has been damaged and will continue to be damaged as a result of 23. Intelio's false advertising in violation of section 43(a) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1125(a),

in that it has and will continue to suffer lost profits due to diverted sales and loss of reputation and good will.

24. By reason of the foregoing, ICS is entitled to the remedies provided for by sections 34 and 35 of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1116, 1117.

## **COUNT II**

(False Advertising In Violation of New York General Business Law Sections 349 and 350, And Similar Laws of Other States)

- Paragraphs 1 through 24 above are incorporated by reference as if fully set 25. forth herein.
- 26. By engaging in such false, deceptive and misleading advertising in the conduct of business, trade or commerce in the State of New York, Intelio has engaged in deceptive acts or practices in violation of New York General Business Law section 349 and false advertising in violation of New York General Business Law section 350, and similar laws of other states in which the false advertisement was disseminated.
- ICS has been damaged and will continue to be damaged as a result of 27. Intelio's false advertising in violation of New York General Business Law sections 349 and 350, and similar laws of other states in which the false advertisement was disseminated, in that it has and will continue to suffer lost profits due to diverted sales and loss of reputation and good will.
- By reason of the foregoing, ICS is entitled to the remedies provided for by 28. New York General Business Law sections 349 and 350, and similar laws of other states in which the false advertisement was disseminated.

WHEREFORE ICS respectfully requests that judgment be entered in its favor and against Intelio, as follows:

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- Restraining Intelio from continuing to use or causing to be used any (a) commercial advertising, which misrepresents the nature, characteristics and/or qualities of ICS's goods, including but not limited to the false advertisement annexed hereto as Exhibit A;
- Requiring Intelio to engage in corrective action, including but not limited (b) to a retraction of the false advertisement, and publication of a corrected advertisement indicating that the proper comparison should have been between the Intelio ActiVA and the ICS Wash Valet, and making such comparison;
- Awarding ICS compensatory damages, including but not limited to (c) damages for lost profits due to diverted sales and loss of reputation and good will, and that said damages be trebled;
- Awarding ICS the costs it has incurred in connection with this action, (d) including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees; and
- Awarding any and other such relief which shall be afforded to ICS as this (e). Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: August 13, 2008

Morristown, New Jersey

Stephen V. Gimigliano (SG-8570) Robert W. Mauriello, Jr. (RM-0850) Gina M. Graham (GG-6214) GRAHAM CURTIN, P.A. Four Headquarters Plaza P.O. Box 1991 Morristown, New Jersey 07962-1991 (973) 292-1700

Attorneys for Plaintiff Innovative Control Systems, Inc.

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Company Model	ICS Auto-Sentry	Intelio ActiVA	Unitec Portal T/I
Display Size	15"	15"	12"
Input Medium	Touchscreen	Touchscreen	Keypad
Pay-at-Pump Interface	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dollar Bill Dispenser(s)	Yes-One	Yes-Two	Yes-One
7x24 Monitoring/Alerts	No	Yes	No
Multi-gate Stacking	Optional	Optional	Optional
Suggested List Price	\$27,700	\$18,780	\$23,950



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